



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)

BARBOSA, M.)

Serial No.: 09/988,193)

Filed: November 19, 2001)

For: DRUM BRAKE BACKING PLATE)

Art Unit: 3683

Examiner: NGUYEN, Lan

3683
W/ #4/A
Ex off line
200
DNash
3/13/03
RECEIVED
MAR 06 2003
GROUP 3600

RESPONSE PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Hon. Director of the Patent
and Trademark Office
Washington, D. C. 20231

SIR:

In response to the office action of October 3, 2003, please amend the above identified application as follows:

In the claims:

03/13/2003 DNASH1 00000001 501088 09988193
01 FC:1252 410.00 CH

Claim 1. (Amended) A backing plate comprising:

abutment plate means for resisting braking forces, and

a shielding plate made of damped steel configured to shield brake components from dust and dirt and reducing noise and vibrations.

Claim 3. (Amended) A backing plate according to claim 1 wherein said damped steel comprises outer and inner layers of steel and an inner layer of vibration dampening material, said layers of steel being of approximately equal thickness.

Claim 4. (Amended) A backing plate comprising an abutment plate having a first part configured to be attached to an axle of a vehicle and a second part configured to resist braking